

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7 and 13 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are sought to be amended. Entry and consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by this amendment.

Applicant has made the above Amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,336,158 (hereinafter referred to as "the Martwick patent"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections since the Martwick patent does not teach or suggest each element of amended independent claims 1, 7 and 13 for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to include the feature of: at least one connection coupled to the source device, wherein the at least one connection is associated with a bus segment coupled to the target device, wherein the decoder generates the bus segment information based on the associated bus segment in response to an assertion of the at least one connection (hereinafter referred to as "the connection feature"). The Martwick patent does not teach or suggest the connection feature. Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claims 1, 7 and 13 (and their dependent claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18) are

patentable over the Martwick patent. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

INVITATION FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, Molly A. McCall, at (703) 633-3311 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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P12247 Reply to Nonfinal OA

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1170, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

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